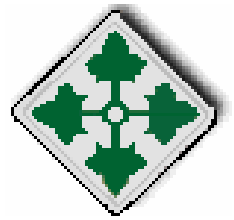




DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry
4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
Forward Operating Base Kalsu, North Babil, Iraq



To whom it may concern,

06 January 2006

My name is Spc Tommy Johnson and I am a 92G. A cook in Echo company 204th. This is my second rotation in Iraq. First, I will tell you a little about myself. I was born in Virginia Beach, Virginia March 1979. I was adopted by my blood father and he married my mom. I was blessed with two sisters and one brother, who has always loved me as blood.

The reason that I joined the Army was to get away from the road that I was headed. I saw myself getting to some things that I didn't want to be in. I wanted a chance to live a normal life and I saw the Army as an opportunity. Talking to the recruiter I learned about all these ways to educate yourself, I knew it would be just the thing for me.

Serving my country is a great honor in itself, but to serve my country at a time of war is a greater honor. To build the Iraqi army and to train their soldiers is a long hard task. Even in knowing this the families at home would still love to see their loved one at home, and they don't see the reason for their loved one to be here. We as soldiers know the importance of every single soldier. So I am proud to serve my country at a time of war and be a part of the solution, not on the outside looking in.

Life on F.O.B. Kalsu is different for me. Like I said in my opening paragraph, this was my second rotation. I see a lot of new things and some old. Life on the F.O.B. is overall good, some of our newer soldiers ask me sometimes what it like the first time. All I could really say to sum it all up was that this is a lot more comfortable for us. I do enjoy my job the people, the atmosphere and mostly to see that everyone is okay.

Sincerely, Spc Tommy Johnson